

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A water-based ink composition comprising a polybasic acid, an ionic polymer and a coloring agent.

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2. The water-based ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the polybasic acid is oxalic acid, malonic acid, a polyethylene oxide dicarboxylic acid or glycerol dicarboxylic acid.

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3. The water-based ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the ionic polymer is a cationic polymer, and the water-based ink composition further comprises a monovalent acid having a water-solubility of not less than 10% by weight at 20°C.

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4. The water-based ink composition according to claim 1, the ionic polymer and the coloring agent are in the form of an aqueous dispersion of water-insoluble polymer particles comprising a pigment or dye and a water-insoluble polymer.

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5. The water-based ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the water-insoluble polymer is a vinyl polymer prepared by copolymerizing a monomer mixture comprising (a) a monomer having a salt-forming group, (b) a macromer and (c) a monomer copolymerizable with the monomer having a salt-forming group and the macromer.

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6. The water-based ink composition according to claim 1, further comprising at least one of an ionic water-soluble polymer and an ionic polymer emulsion.

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